

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01

IGA-01 /067 W

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P R 261430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1623

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 1715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYA

REF: (A) STATE 040281 (B) LONDON 02840

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH UK HIGH COMMISSIONER DUFF ON SUBJECT ON 24 FEBRUARY, I SUGGESTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD ASK VP MOI FOR MANS' REPORT, STATING I HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH DUFF. ON 26 FEBRUARY I SAW MOI WHO GAVE ME REPORT WHICH I AM POUCHING 28 FEBRUARY TO AF/E. I HAVE ADVISED DUFF I HAVE RECEIVED REPORT AND AM SENDING COPY TO WASHINGTON.

2. DUFF INFORMED ME THAT LAST OCTOBER BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN HAD DISCUSSED KENYAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS WITH THE SHAH WHO INDICATED INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS IN PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS TO KENYA. WHEN ASKED WHETHER IRAN WOULD ALSO CONSIDER MILITARY AID, SHAH STATED ECONOMIC AID SHOULD FREE FUNDS KENYANS HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

3. DUFF FURTHER STATED PRESIDENT KENYATTA HAD INSTRUCTED MINFINANCE KIBAKI AND MINDEF GICHURU TO ASK UK FOR DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY REQUIREMENTS WHICH NOW
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ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 120 MILLION POUNDS (FOR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD).

DUFF MET WITH KIBAKI AND GICHURU LAST WEEK, INFORMING THEM UK WOULD BE UNABLE PROVIDE GRANT MONEY AND SALES COULD ONLY BE ON COMMERCIAL TERMS.

4. ON 28 FEBRUARY MOI COMMENTED TO ME GOK DOES NOT WANT MORE HAWKER HUNTERS BUT SUPERIOR US AIRCRAFT. MOI FURTHER STATED BRITISH HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE GOK TO REQUEST MILITARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN. MOI SAID GOK MIGHT RECEIVE SMALL GRANT FROM GOI FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT LOOKS TO USG FOR "MILITARY CREDITS AND WHATEVER HELP US CAN GIVE KENYA". I REITERATED THAT WHILE USG GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO KIND AND AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE IT CAN PROVIDE, GOK SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. MOI ADDED THAT IF IT WOULD HELP, HE AND KIBAKI WOULD BE PLEASED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO STATE CASE DIRECTLY.

5. (COMMENT: MOI LEADING GOK DELEGATION OF TWENTY MEMBERS INCLUDING MINFORAFF WAIYAKI TO JAMAICA FOR COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE 29 APRIL TO 6 MAY. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES TIMING RIGHT, I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION SUGGESTING TO MOI THAT HE STOP OFF IN WASHINGTON AFTER JAMAICA VISIT).
MARSHALL

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